

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
a steering shaft supported in a cylindrical housing so that the steering shaft can freely move in an axial direction; and
a nut member screwed onto a screw groove formed in an outer circumference of the steering shaft through a rolling member and rotatably supported in the housing,
wherein steering is performed by transmitting rotation of a motor, which is driven according to steering, to the nut member and converting rotation of the nut member into movement of the steering shaft,
the housing is constructed by coaxially connecting a first housing having an integrally formed fixing section for fastening to a vehicle body with a second housing having a fixing section for fastening to the vehicle body in a separate member, and
the nut member is supported by a thrust bearing fitted and fixed in the first housing so that the nut member cannot move in both directions along an axial direction[.], and
a radial bearing is fitted and fixed in the second housing, wherein the nut member is
respectively supported at two points along an axis of the nut member by the thrust bearing and the
radial bearing.

2. (Original) The steering apparatus for a vehicle as set forth in claim 1, wherein a transmission section for transmitting power from the motor to the nut member is a gear transmission section comprising a large gear provided on an outer circumferential surface of the nut member and a small gear which is meshed with the large gear and rotates with power transmission from the motor,

the small gear is fixed to a projecting portion of a transmission shaft supported in a transmission housing loosely fitted into a part of the first housing or the second housing and having

